

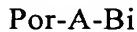
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A porphyrin compound containing a biotinyl group represented by Formula (I):



wherein Por represents a porphyrin residue optionally forming a metal complex; Bi represents an optionally substituted biotinyl group; and A represents a C₁-C₃₀ hydrocarbyl group, or a C₁-C₃₀ heterohydrocarbyl group having 1-10 heteroatoms selected from a group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein Por is a porphyrin residue that has formed a metal complex selected from a group consisting of heme a, heme b, heme c, variant heme c, heme d, heme d1, siroheme, and heme o.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the Por is a heme b residue.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the Por is a porphyrin residue selected from a group consisting of uroporphyrin-I, uroporphyrin-II, coproporphyrin-III, protoporphyrin-IX, protoporphyrin-IX, and hematoporphyrin-IX.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the Bi is a biotinyl group.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the A is a straight chain or branched alkylene group of 1-20 carbon atoms, and one or more than one of the non-adjacent CH₂ groups of the alkylene group is optionally substituted by - NH- , - NH- NH- , - NHCO-, - CONH-, - N(C₁₋₃ alkyl)-, - O- , - S-, - CO-, - O- CO- , - S- CO- , - O-COO-, -CO-S-, -CO-O-, - CH(halogen)- , - CH(CN)- , - CH=CH- , -NH- NH- CO- or - CO- NH- NH- .

7. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, wherein the A is selected from a group consisting of

- NH- NH- ,
- NH- NH- CO- (CH₂)_n- NH- ,
- NH- NH- CO- (CH₂)_n- NH- CO- (CH₂)_n- NH- ,
- NH- (CH₂)_n- NH- ,
- NH- NH- CO- (CH₂)_n- NH- ,
- NH- NH- CO- (CH₂)_n- CO- NH- NH- ,
- NH- (CH₂)_n- CO- NH- NH- , and
- NH(CH₂)_n- CO- NH- (CH₂)_n- CO- NH- NH-

in these formulae each n independently represents 1-10.

8. (Original) A method for preparing the porphyrin compound containing a biotinyl group according to claim 1, comprising reacting a porphyrin optionally forming a metal complex with a compound containing a terminally aminated biotinyl group in the presence of a coupling agent.

9. (Original) A hemoprotein purification method, comprising a step of performing affinity chromatography using the compound according to claim 1.

10. (Original) A hemoprotein purification kit, comprising the compound according to claim 1 and carrier beads with an avidin compound bonded thereto.

11. (Original) A hemoprotein labeling compound that is the compound according to claim 1.

12. (Original) A method for detecting hemoprotein using the labeling compound according to claim 11.

13. (Original) A diagnostic agent for hemoprotein-associated diseases, comprising the labeling compound according to claim 11.

14. (Original) A therapeutic drug for photodynamic therapy, comprising the compound according to claim 4.